

# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

*"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."*

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

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## PRACTICE OF HAHNEMANN.

From the time Hahnemann promulgated his views of the treatment of disease until now, the tendency has been to modify his rules of practice. To this we could not object, if his practice had been thoroughly tested, and found in-

competent to cure the sick; but this is not so, for it may be ascertained that only a very small number of his professed disciples have complied with his advice, "do as I have done;" and in no one instance, so far as we know, has any one abandoned homœopathy, or had his confidence diminished in it, by treating diseases as he did; but there is reason to believe, that few, if any, can feel to rely exclusively on homœopathic practice who do not follow his method of cure.

We are of those who fearlessly avow the opinion, that the practice of Hahnemann is the most perfect, yet known; and farther, that improvement in the healing art, can only continue by a strict adherence to the laws he developed, and which govern this branch of science. We do not mean to say that this practice is perfect; but we do mean to say, that the laws which govern it are perfect, and cannot be improved. If this is not so, they are not laws, and homœopathy is not true, and must be given up.

It is asserted by some medical writers that the disciples of Hahnemann depart from his practice. We must with deep regret admit that there is too much truth in this charge, yet, it is no proof of the incompetency of homœopathy; it only proves the incompetency of some who call themselves by its name. We are aware that many who claim the high honor of union with homœopathy; who by pride, or vanity, or indolence, or prejudice, or other causes, have been prevented from a thorough study of the writings of Hahnemann, and have never been imbued with his spirit, and know little of the laws which guided him in the treatment of diseases.

Homœopathy is founded upon immutable laws which are consistent with one another, and with every thing else in nature; and any departure from them in practice is unsafe; and this consequence is sustained both by reason and experience. Hahnemann perceived and

understood this; and hence he was never charged as some of his followers have been, with professing one mode of practice, and pursuing another. Of all the slanders of his enemies not one ever charged him in a single instance with departing from his principles. His success in curing diseases, is unparalleled in the history of medicine. He attended to the active duties of his profession for nearly half a century, yet his popularity was never greater than at the latest period of his life.

He cured the sick of diseases which others could not cure. He relieved multitudes of their sufferings in "a safe, prompt and pleasant," manner, and made known how he accomplished these great works; yet many, who profess to be of his school, depart from him in practice, and fail almost daily in their own efforts, and disappoint the expectations of their patients, and then join with the allopathic school in ridicule and denunciation of the practice of Hahnemann.

In this country the first introduction of homœopathy was in a modified form, so much so, that for years in this city, allopathic practitioners in daily intercourse with those who claimed to be the first homœopaths, did not perceive any difference in their doctrine or practice with their own. And such has been the miserable manner this system has been managed in this city, that had it not have been for the gross absurdities of allopathy, and the diminishing confidence of the people in the old school practice, homœopathy would scarcely have had a place to stand upon to this day. We have known men, who had not heard of homœopathy, for as many weeks as Hahnemann had practiced it for years, come out in pamphlets and newspapers to let the public know that they did not agree with him; and yet, call themselves by his name, and do so to this day. The universality of the law of cure was rejected; the doctrine of dynamization of medicines was rejected; the doctrine of chronic diseases was rejected; the rule for the repetition of doses was disregarded; the method of examining cases as laid down in the *Organon* was only partially adopted; and the mode put forth in the same work for the selection of the remedies was also in part rejected. In truth, there is reason to believe, that some, in their eagerness to become much greater men than Hahnemann, did not wait until they had tested his practice, but assured that its principles could be improved, they step by step went so far astray in vain speculations and

egotistical assumptions, become blinded to the truth, and have come to rely upon their own judgments, in opposition to the experience of Hahnemann and his disciples; to the substitution of empiricism, based upon the impure resources of allopathy, for the safe and immutable principles furnished by the homœopathic law; to have sacrificed upon the altar of vanity and self-interest the simple truths of nature; to have secured the contempt of the allopathic school, and to have lost the confidence of that of homœopathy; confused the public mind, and so far as their influence goes to have retarded for the time the advancement of the true principles in medicine.

To be Continued.)

### OBJECTIONS TO HOMŒOPATHY.

*Homœopathy cannot be depended upon in acute diseases.*

If the homœopathic principle, that "similars are cured by similars," is a law of nature which serves as a criterion for the selection of medicinal agents in the treatment of diseases in general, it must of necessity be true for acute as well as chronic diseases. If such was not the case, it would not deserve the name of a general principle, and still less, that of a law of nature. An appeal to the main test of practical medicine, *experience*, must decide the question; and this appeal we fearlessly make. There are now several thousand homœopathic physicians in different parts of the world, who in their almost invariably extensive practice, follow the precepts of homœopathy exclusively. Will any body be childish enough to deny that acute cases of every description do occur in their practice as well as in that of other physicians? and do we hear that more patients die of acute diseases under their care than under allopathic treatment? Is it not, on the contrary, comparatively rare that homœopathy loses a patient under acute disease.\*

\* If it happens that homœopathy loses a patient of acute disease, the case is sure to be eagerly grasped at as an event by our opponents; and the public who fortunately have learned to judge for themselves, do not soon hear the end of it. From the manner of adverting to such cases one might be led to suppose, that allopathy never loses a patient of acute disease, or that bleeding, blistering and purging would have saved the unfortunate victim of Homœopathy without a shadow of doubt. This sort of opposition, however, never finally answers its purpose; on the contrary, public attention is only roused on the subject, and a candid investigation exposes the unfairness of the accusation thus brought forward;

Any one who will consider the statistical results obtained at public institutions in the homœopathic treatment of acute disease, will see how far more successful it is in this class of diseases than allopathy. We shall only quote a passage from an excellent book written by an impartial and distinguished Dublin Physician, who says: "Whatever the opponents of this system may put forward against it, I am bound to say, and I am far from being a homœopathic practitioner, that the cases I saw treated by it in the Vienna Hospital were fully as acute and virulent as those that have come under my observation elsewhere; and the statistics show, that the mortality is much less than in other hospitals of that city. Knolz the Austrian *Pratomedicus*, has published those for 1838, which exhibit a mortality of but five or six per cent., while three similar institutions on the allopathic plan, enumerated before it in the same table, show a mortality as high as from eight to ten per cent." In the treatment of cholera, the average result has been, according to official returns, that 8 1-2 to 9 per cent. died under the care of homœopathy, whereas forty to fifty per cent. died under allopathic treatment. We therefore maintain, what long experience and daily observation confirm, that there is no case of acute disease arising whether from inflammatory action or other morbid causes, and however virulent and threatening may be its character, which may be arrested and subdued by homœopathic remedies much more quickly and effectually than by allopathic treatment. The reasons why homœopathy is so successful in the treatment of acute cases are—

1. Homœopathy has an unerring principle upon which it chooses the appropriate medicines which specifically assist the health-restoring efforts of nature.

2. Homœopathy when properly practiced, does not weaken the vital energy of the patient by bleeding, blistering, purging, and similar

it generally increases friends and supporters, and thus reacts against the parties who resort to it. As long as our adversaries persist in their usual superficial mode of opposition, they involuntarily advance those interests they intend to overthrow, and others are led to believe that they have no better arguments to bring forward against the system. Let them then stand in their opposition upon purely scientific grounds, and if they then succeed in establishing the untruth of homœopathy, we shall gladly abide by the consequences.

measures, nor does it impede and confuse the efforts of nature by large doses of active drugs chosen and mixed together without fixed principles.

3. The reaction of the body stands in direct proportion to the acuteness of the disease; the more active and acute the disease is, the more rapid is the effect of the medicine.

4. The usually long period of convalescence after allopathic treatment, is comparatively short after homœopathic treatment, once the morbid symptoms are radically subdued.

It cannot reasonably be expected that homœopathy should be invariable successful; and there are three principal causes of occasional non-success in acute diseases:

1. The constitution of the patient may be previously so unsound, that violent acute diseases, such as fevers, inflammations, &c., assume a dangerous and complicated character which often eludes the control of medicine. In such cases allopathy would not have been more successful than homœopathy.

2. Homœopathy is frequently called upon to treat severe acute diseases after bleeding, blistering, purging and similar unfavorable measures have already been resorted to; in such cases medicine has little power in restoring the vital energy which has thus been unduly diminished.

3. The amount of vital power may be at such a low ebb from old age, previous disease or other causes, that reaction upon the most appropriate medicines is imperfect, amelioration only temporary and partial, and final dissolution inevitable.

*Homœopathic cures are only effected after a severe aggravation.*

To this we answer:

1. The phenomenon of homœopathic aggravation is exceedingly rare under a properly conducted treatment. It is principally induced by an injudicious repetition of the medicines when it is not required, and thus frequently the fault of the practitioner and not of Homœopathy.

2. If it happens as it sometimes does, even with the greatest caution, in very sensitive patients, it is generally transient and harmless, and followed in most cases, through the succeeding reaction, by very sensible improvement.

*Homœopathy is quackery.*

A syllogism may be refuted, not so a hard name; and we must leave it to the intelligent reader to judge, whether a system of practi-

cal medicine of such perfectly philosophical construction as homœopathy, which lays its precepts and means fairly before the public, courts inquiry, and is open to the adoption of all medical men, deserves such a name. That homœopathy, as is the case with allopathy, will fall into the hands of quacks, of which strong symptoms already manifest themselves even in this country, there can be no doubt, and no direct means can prevent it. It is only by showing to the public how to distinguish the properly informed Homœopath from the homœopathic quack, that they may be to a certain degree prevented from becoming the prey of the latter. Homœopathy itself can be no more responsible for his doings than allopathy is for those of the allopathic quack.

In this place we think it our duty to say a few words about those unprofessional persons who under the euphonious name of "*Amateurs*," frequently engage in homœopathic practice. The number of persons who are convinced of the truth of homœopathy, and have an entire confidence in its practice, has, in proportion, by far outstripped that of properly informed homœopathic physicians. Many, particularly those who live at a distance from a homœopathic practitioner, are therefore frequently placed in an awkward predicament, when cases of sudden disease occur in their family, and are either compelled to apply to allopathy, in which they have little or no confidence, or to leave their patients without any medical assistance. As long as medical practitioners do not adopt homœopathy more generally than they have hitherto done, unprofessional persons are therefore, obliged to make a virtue of necessity and try to administer homœopathic medicines themselves as well as they can. Imperfect as their treatment will always be, if compared to that of a properly informed professional man, yet, under present circumstances, one cannot blame the father and mother who try to get some information on the practice of homœopathy to avail themselves of it in case of necessity. As long as they confine themselves to the treatment of slight acute diseases, this practice can now scarcely be objected to.

1. Because there would be no time to send for or to have the regular attendance of a distant homœopathic physician.

2. Because nature being generally in acute diseases, powerful and correct health-restoring efforts, if not interfered with by violent meas-

ures, makes a very efficacious ally and assistant.

3. Because the symptoms of the simpler kinds of acute disease are generally so distinctly marked, that often certain remedies can be pointed out for certain disorders.

There is no doubt that intelligent unprofessional persons may be frequently of great use in those cases. But when they outstep this province and presume, from the circumstance of some acute patients having got well in their hands, that they may undertake the treatment of any chronic disease, however severe and complicated, we protest in the name of common sense, and in the name of homœopathic science, against such hazardous and presumptuous dabbling in a practice, the proper exercise of which not only requires a full acquaintance with the different branches of medical science, but also, in itself, years of positive severe study. Any one who will for one moment reflect on the subject, must allow that the task of bringing back to their proper and regular functions, organs which have been disordered for years, and of inducing the conditions of a durable continuance of that regularity, is one of the most delicate, complicated and difficult, if not the most difficult occupation that man can apply himself to. Therefore if we cannot, under existing circumstances, have any vital objection to unprofessional persons applying homœopathic medicines in some acute cases of disease, we ought to protest most unequivocally against their meddling with the treatment of chronic disorders.

4. Because these diseases are generally so complicated and intricate with regard to causes, successive changes of form, symptoms, &c., that it not only requires positive extensive medical information, but also great tact, judgment and penetration, sharpened by the habit of observing disease, to treat them with durable success.

2. Because a chronic disease the treatment of which has been wrongly begun and continued with inappropriate means, is frequently rendered so complicated and confused, that no medical skill can afterwards totally undo the mischief thus involuntarily produced by the amateur practitioner.

3. Because, if necessary and inevitable, a homœopathic professional practitioner may be consulted by letter on these diseases.

If one considers that the venerable author of Homœopathy, who better than any one else



understood its practice, after fifty years of extensive experience, frequently spent hours in research and consideration before he decided about the remedy to be given in complicated chronic cases, one cannot but be painfully struck by the extraordinary levity and assurance with which the already numerous tribe of half-informed amateur practitioners talk of administering sulphur, calcarea, sepia, causticum, phosphor, arsenic, silicea, and other of our most powerful medicines, as if it were of the simplest and easiest thing in nature. They seem to have no idea, that the proper choice of these medicines is, on account of their most numerous effects, and their protracted and penetrating action, a matter of exceeding difficulty and nicety; and to imagine that all that is required for proper homœopathic practice is some book on homœopathic domestic medicine, a little box with small globules, and at the very best Jahr's Manual, or some other imperfect extract of the materia medica. Incredible as it may appear, yet it is nevertheless perfectly true and of common occurrence, that people most seriously attribute the numerous failures of such random practice to homœopathic science and not to the want of proper information and skill of the amateur.

However, much as we object to such injudicious dabbling ourselves, it appears to us rather strange that such objections should come from persons who ought first to consider well their own respective position before they attack Homœopathy on the grounds in question.—*Concise View &c.*

#### LAWS OF HEALTH—DISEASE.

The selection of symptoms which we have given in preceding numbers as "evidence of the existence of a latent miasm in the system," more generally indicate disturbance of the vital action and the consequent derangement of functions of different organs, than actual disease or change of structure.

The disturbances which this miasm may give rise to are innumerable, and its tendency is to produce, by long continued action, diseased conditions of a profound, permanent, often of an incurable character. It constitutes the predisposition to disease from which so few are exempt, and which, on the operation of the various exciting causes, becomes developed and determined upon some one or more organs.

The action and influence of this miasm are varied in different constitutions, in accordance

with the mode of life, occupation, etc., of each individual, and its effects are numerous and severe in proportion to the strength of the constitution, and its power of resistance. This miasm, running through successive generations, has much to do with the vast difference perceptible in the original strength and vigor of constitution which characterizes different individuals. Its influence in determining the tone and vigor of the system, the firmness and compactness of the tissues, and the energy of the vital action—as well as in predisposing the system to derangement and disease—is a subject of interest to the medical philosopher, and of profound importance to the physician.

It predisposes the system to acute attacks, fevers, inflammations, rheumatism, etc., and increases its susceptibility to the influence of contagious diseases.

The severity and frequency of these attacks are in proportion to the profoundness and activity of this latent miasm. When roused to intense action and coupled with some other exciting causes of disturbance, its effects are severe and the consequences to the patient are of the most threatening or fatal kind.

The slightest derangements which in some individuals are promptly arrested by the action of a single dose of an appropriate remedy, or are readily overcome by the power of nature, in others, when complicated with the effect of this miasm, not only resist the action of proper remedies, but become difficulties of the most painful, obstinate, and permanent character.

Hence when it is known to exist, it should receive the careful attention of the physician, with a view to its eradication; thus lessening the frequency of these attacks, and finally of removing the predisposition to them.

The affections of a chronic character "the secondary ailments," which have their origin in this miasm, "are described as distinct and independent diseases in the older pathological works, and bear the following names:"

"Scrofula, rickets, spina ventosa, atrophy, marasmus, consumption, pulmonary consumption, asthma, tabes mucosa, laryngeal phthisis, chronic catarrh, constant cold in the head, difficult dentition, worms, and consequent diseases, dyspepsia, spasms in the abdomen, hypochondria, hysteria, anasarca, dropsy, ovarian dropsy, dropsy of the uterus, hydrocele, hydrocephalus, amenorrhœa and dismenorrhœa, hemorrhage from the uterus, hematemesia, hemoptysis, hemorrhages, discharges from the vagina, dysuria, ischuria, enuresis, diabetes, catarrh of the bladder, hematuria, stricture of the urethra, nephralgia, gravel, stricture of the

intestines, blind and flowing hemorrhoids, fistula in ano, difficult stools, constipation, chronic diarrhoea, induration of the liver, jaundice, blue disease, disease of the heart, beating of the heart, spasms of the chest, dropsy of the chest, miscarriage, sterility, metromania, impotence, induration of the testes, dwindling of the testes, prolapsus uteri, inversion of the womb, inguinal, femoral and umbilical hernia, dislocations from some internal cause, curvature of the spine, chronic inflammation of the eyes, fistula lachrymalis, short and long-sightedness, day and night-blindness; obscuration of the cornea, cataract, glaucoma, amaurosis, deafness, deficient smell or taste, chronic headache on one side, pain in the face, tinea capitis, scabs, crusta lactea, herpes, pimples, nettle-rash, lypoma, goitre, varix, aneurisms, erysipelas, adipose sarcoma, osteo-sarcoma, scirrhous, cancer of the lips, cheek, breast and womb; fungus hematomides, rheumatism, gout in the hips, in the joints and feet; apoplectic fits, spasms, convulsions, swoons, vertigo, paralysis, contractions, epilepsy, St. Vitus, dance, melancholy, insanity, imbecility, nervous affections, etc.

CASE FROM PRACTICE, BY C. D.  
WILLIAMS, M. D., & C. D. HAS-  
TINGS, M. D.

We publish with pleasure, the following case from our friend Dr. Williams of Cleveland, O.

Dr. W., was one of the early pioneers of Homœopathy in Western N. York, where the science was introduced by Doct. Bayard of this city, about the time it began to attract attention in this country, and with whom Dr. Williams was associated.

Dr. W. has ever since been a firm and zealous advocate of the new system, and his efforts to extend it have been marked with success. No where is our art more prosperous than in Western N. York, and we are glad to learn that the Dr. is achieving for it similar triumphs in the great State of Ohio.

The case affords a striking illustration of the curative power of drugs, having a specific relation to disease, and in attenuated doses. We think, as the Dr. discovered and remarks, that the cure would have been more prompt, had the remedies been given in higher attenuations.

"A son of Capt. J. Nickinson of this city, aged 6 years, while at school was discovered to be ill with symptoms resembling apoplexy, accompanied with paralysis of one side alternating with spasm of the other. The character of these spasms were *tetanic*. The pupils of the eyes were largely dilated at times, at

others, quickly contracting so as to be nearly closed. When free from general spasm, the limbs of both sides were in constant motion with sudden jerks resembling a series of electric shocks, which were instantly aggravated by touching the limbs with the hand. The patient all the time being wholly insensible to every thing around him. The number of spasmodic paroxysms in twenty four hours, were from twenty to twenty-five, and each one continuing from ten to twenty minutes, during which time it was not unusual for him to froth at the mouth. Dr. Matheritt an allopathic physician of this city, with Dr. Cushing as counsel, had the charge of this case, the first two days. The treatment was 1st. *an emetic*, 2d. *calomel*, 3d. *prussic acid*, "in doses as large as the child could possibly bear," and completed, with *ethers*, *antacids*, and *cold shower baths*. During this time and under this treatment as described to us by Dr. M., the patient continued to become steadily worse, and at this stage of the case, he was deemed incurable by his medical attendant, and abandoned to his fate. The parents and friends had likewise relinquished all hope of his recovery, and it was only through the natural proneness of "drowning men to catch at straws," that induced them to "try once more" to obtain relief for their child. We took the charge and direction of this case June 19th, 1846, at 10 o'clock, A. M., and administered *belladonna 3d.*, repeating it in one hour without any visible good results; allowed one hour more to pass by and administered *nux vom. 3d.*, and repeated it in two hours, after which the same remedy was repeated once in 4 hours, during the day and night.—20th, 7 o'clock, A. M.: visited the patient, and found he had been very restless through the night, with an improvement of the paralytic symptoms and less jerking of the limbs. Had some fever, and the general spasms had not been quite so frequent as during the preceding night; pupils more steadily contracted, and changes less frequent. The patient, however, manifested a new symptom, namely, a paroxysm of *fright* on awakening from apparent sleep. *Nux vom.* was now discontinued, and *belladonna 3d.*, dissolved in distilled water, substituted for it. This was followed in a few minutes by an aggravation of the symptoms of fright, and accompanied by incoherent talking about being thrown into the river, and begging to be taken out. *Chamomilla 3d.* was given, in attenuation, with *belladonna*, during the day. We saw this case

again in the evening; the above symptoms had nearly abated, without improving the paralysis and jerking motions of the limbs. Had recourse to nux vom. again, through the night (discontinuing the bell. and cham.)—21st.: again visited the patient in the morning. He had a very comfortable night, slept quietly, and was easily roused; and, when awake, in full possession of his senses. Paralysis, jerking of the limbs, and all the apoplectic symptoms had disappeared. He called for drink and food, which were allowed in moderate quantities. The case was allowed to go on, under the action of the last named medicine, for the fore part of the day. At one o'clock, the paroxysm of fright occurred again, and was speedily relieved by belladonna 12th.—22d.: the boy slept well last night, awoke this morning refreshed, with no other symptoms except those of general debility. Appetite again returned, and was carefully gratified. His bowels soon became regular, and in a few days more required no more medical attendance from us, and was discharged cured.

This case has some interest.

1. The disease was not an imaginary one, as must be inferred from the character of the symptoms and the age of the patient.

2. The cure could not be attributed to diet or nature: the case was acute and alarming, and so must have thought the allopathic physicians in attendance, who deemed it incurable, and voluntarily abandoned it.

3. There was evidence of the action of belladonna, as a new symptom was developed after its administration, viz, *fright*, which is peculiar to the action of this drug on the system.

4. There was an over action in the case, from the 3d. of belladonna, which was completely relieved by a higher potency of the same remedy.

5. Prussic acid was administered in this case in allopathic doses. Prussic acid has a specific relation in its effects to this disease.

6. If the 3d. att. of belladonna was poisonous in its effects, what must have been the action of prussic acid, in crude doses, upon that suffering child?

7. Nux vomica and belladonna are antidotes to prussic acid, upon the principle of *similia similibus curantur*.

8. Upon this great scientific principle the child was cured.

9. If this law had not been so applied, the child must have died with disease of the brain,

urged to its dangerous tendencies by strong doses of a drug producing similar disease.\*

10. The facts in this case show, that the 12th potency of the remedies used would have resulted in a more prompt and easy cure than the 3d, since the aggravations, which were in fact unnecessary, could have been avoided.

And lastly, the history of this case demonstrates the necessity of an exact knowledge of the action of drugs, when dealing with disease."

Cleveland, O., Dec. 16, 1846.

### DISEASES OF CHILDREN, DENTITION.

The many affections of the skin to which children are subject, are especially developed at the period of teething. These, with other affections, are by the older writers considered to owe their origin to this cause (teething), and have been denominated "*diseases of dentition*." Children, long before the period of teething, as well as subsequent to it, are subject to various eruptions of the skin; to excoriations, sore eyes, sore mouth, &c. Were teething the primary cause of these affections, they should occur at no other period, and all children should suffer from them, which is not the case. They must therefore be dependent upon some other cause inherent in the system, of which these affections, occurring at this period, are evidence.

Infants are often born with some eruption upon the skin, and it is not uncommon for these to make their appearance in the first few days or weeks after birth, and before they could have been contracted from any infection; hence, they must have their origin in a constitutional taint. Some of these affections are acknowledged to be hereditary, while there are those known to be contagious.

It is observed that children, subject to eruptions upon the skin, also suffer from other derangements, and that the sudden disappearance of these eruptions is frequently followed by internal disturbances of some sort; and it is becoming to be more generally believed by the profession that they are not independent local diseases, but as being connected with internal

\* See Christison on Poisons, article Prussic Acid, also Dunglinson's New Remedies, from page 5th to 7th; and same authors on Nux vomica and Belladonna.

morbid conditions and constitutional causes; and that although the existence of the connection of some of these affections with peculiar conditions of the system, or states of the constitution, may not be apparent, yet it is to be inferred; while there are many diseases, as the exanthemata, which at certain periods of their course are developed upon the skin, and some that are contagious, as syphilis, psora, &c.

Many of these diseases, not the result of a special miasm or infection, as salt rheum, tetters, &c., are acknowledged to be hereditary. Such are those which appear spontaneously, and which are neither epidemic nor contagious. Of these generally it is our present purpose to speak.

"It would be a grave error to separate certain cutaneous eruptions from lesions of other systems when both derive their origin from the same cause: to attempt to isolate the venereal eruptions, for example, from the other symptoms of syphilitic infection—exostoses, periostoses, nocturnal pains in the bones and joints, &c.—would evidently be arbitrarily to disconnect the different orders of symptoms of one and the same disease.

"Certain diseases, such as the *eruptive fevers*, produced by infection of the whole system, although they indeed exhibit themselves on the exterior of the body at determinate periods in peculiar and characteristic symptoms, are, to all intents and purposes, *general diseases*, the effects of which are occasionally felt with far greater violence by other systems than by the skin. In some cases, indeed, in variola, rubeola, scarlatina, &c., no eruption ever makes its appearance, and the skin then continues entirely a stranger to the effects of the contagion.

"If in the eruptive fevers and the syphilides, the evidence of a general constitutional affection appear in a multitude of phenomena, the connection of several other alterations of the skin with a particular state of the constitution is no less evident; it is very striking in scrofulous tubercles and ulcers, which are always preceded or accompanied with other symptoms of a strumous nature.

"Besides these cases of general affection, and of original or hereditary disposition of the constitution, which are transmitted to the skin, or manifest themselves there in shape of eruptions of divers forms, the principal phenomena of several morbid states of the system at large, and of certain derangements of important organs, are peculiar affections of the skin.

Erysipelas is occasionally seen supervening periodically, every month, or every two months, at the usual menstrual periods, when the catamenia fail or are deficient in quantity; straphulous is one of the most usual morbid phenomena at the time of teething; urticaria and lichen *urticatus* frequently succeed derangement of the digestive functions, &c.

"The more we study the development and tendency of the greater number of the diseases of the skin, which invade independently of any outward appreciable cause, the more we become convinced of their connection with the state of the constitution, and of the necessity there is for considering them under this point of view before we think of undertaking their cure, or even of interfering with them so as to modify their progress."—*Rayet on the Diseases of the Skin.*

#### DIFFICULTY OF INTRODUCING NEW SYSTEMS OR SCIENCES.

(Continued.)

In a former number we attempted to illustrate this difficulty, and as it is a matter of great moment in connection with our system, tending to show why all the world are not at once converted to our opinion, we think it desirable of continued remarks.

This difficulty is very obvious when a science is fully developed. As the development of a science, and not the discussion of its principles is all with which we can hope to persuade the popular mind. The public must in some way have access to such developments, in order to be persuaded or benefited by them. This is a matter of no small inconvenience in the infancy of our practice, and more especially when that practice is the butt and bye-word of the ignorant and prejudiced. These very prejudices prevent them from being reasonable spectators of the cures exhibited in our practice. In addition to this, prejudice is so headstrong that in many instances when individuals are cured of severe and obstinate diseases, conviction of the availableness of Homœopathic remedies, scarcely extends beyond the persons themselves. While *they* know they were sick and in pain, *others* conceive their ailments to have been imaginary, or to have been spontaneously relieved by the hand of nature. This is a state of things against which provision cannot be made, and a patient accumulation of facts and evidence is neces-



sary to effect that which even a superficial observation, if not embarrassed with determined incredulity ought at once to accomplish.

Then we find a difficulty in proposing principles which are opposed to the interests of so large and respectable a proportion of the community.

In this city there are near 800 members of the allopathic school, many of extensive and rich practice, most of them gaining a competency, and some fame and fortune in their professional pursuits. Their opinion *appears to be* that should our science become universal, large sources of fame and profit would be cut off, and hence a reluctance even to examine that which there interest condemns. As no man likes to give a certainty for an uncertainty, so those gentlemen, not knowing, nor having means to know, what might be the effect of the abandonment of their system, and the adoption of Homœopathy, they retain that which has been long cherished, and which it becomes us in charity to believe *they consider* useful and indispensable to the well being of the world. We do not denounce the sincerity of their motives, but we do not insist that a strict investigation of our principles, would result in a revolutionary practice on their part, far more beneficial to the world, which no man's interest should for a moment arrest. Yet this is a difficulty of towering magnitude—make it the interest of men, and they will do any thing. Interest sways thousands of votes in the political world, some perhaps almost unconsciously—interest regulates all the commercial operations of the world—interest governs the diplomacy of nations, and should we wonder that an army of dependent and ambitious doctors could lay aside so powerful a consideration, and voluntarily submit themselves to what they consider comparative disrepute and poverty. Are we not to suppose it to be therefore a very rational result that our allopathic friends, themselves not having investigated our system, endeavor at least to infuse the spirit of their own opposition into the bosoms of those from whom they derive their support. We do not offer these remarks to impugn the profession. Our only object is to expose some of the obstacles to be overcome in the advancement and diffusion of what we esteem true principles in medicine.

Nor can we hope to secure a comparatively large number of youthful practitioners in our school, as interest and pride will incline them otherwise. And as few professional men are able to expend fortunes in waiting for practice,

and as the great majority require influence to introduce them to the public, we must expect that the majority of practitioners will devote themselves to that school from which they can derive the most influence and support. Hence it is reasonable to expect for a time the opposition of the entire allopathic school, their institution and students, as well as that of druggists, patent medicine manufacturers and vendors, and all whose interests are identified with the drugging system.

#### HAHNEMANN ON COFFEE.

Thus much at least is certain—the most refined man of the world, the most accomplished prodigal of life, from one end of the globe to the other, can discover no medical article of diet but coffee which is capable of converting our usual sensations for some hours into purely pleasing ones; of producing in us, for some hours a more jovial, nay even petulant mirth, a more lively wit, a brilliant fancy which goes beyond our temperament—of accelerating the motion of our muscles till they tremble, and of doubling in speed the regular quiet course of our organs of digestion and evacuation; of keeping the sexual appetite in an almost involuntary excitement, of stilling the beneficent pain of hunger and thirst, of driving refreshing sleep from the weary limbs, and of feigning a species of wakefulness at a time when the whole created world of our hemisphere is enjoying its appointed destiny, refreshing rest, in the still bosom of night.

In this way we master the wise laws of our nature, *but not without injury.*

After some hours, when the first transitory effect of coffee has disappeared, the opposite condition, its *final effect*, follows. The more striking the first was, the more remarkable and the more unpleasant is the latter.

It is true that every man does not experience the same degree of injury from the misuse of a medicinal beverage like coffee.

Our bodies are so admirably framed that provided only we follow a natural way of living in other respects, some faults in our diet, if not too gross, are tolerably harmless.

Thus, for instance, the German day-laborer and peasant drinks every morning brandy, so hurtful in itself; but takes it only in small quantities, and yet, often attains a good age. His health suffers little. His good natural constitution and the healthiness of his mode of

life in other respects, overcome the injurious effects of this beverage, without his suspecting it.

And if the head of a peasant's or laborer's family drink a couple of cups of weak coffee daily, the same result follows. His robust frame, the laborious exercise of his limbs, and the fill of fresh air which he enjoys daily, dispel the injurious effects of this beverage, and his health suffers little or nothing in consequence of it.

But where these favorable circumstances do not assist, the injurious effects of coffee are observable in a far greater degree.

An individual who is engaged wholly within doors, or even in one apartment, and even if he possess a weak frame, may still enjoy a species of health, provided he lives agreeably to his situation in other respects. The female sex, through moderate indulgence in easily digestible, mild, simple and purely nutritive food and drinks, with very little condiment, through wise government of the passions, and frequent renewals of the air of the apartments occupied, even without active bodily exercise can enjoy that which, though easily disturbed by external causes, may still, when these are avoided, be called a moderate degree of health. On such individuals, the effects of all noxious substances, that is, of all drugs, is far stronger and more striking, than in robust persons accustomed to labor in the open air who can bear very injurious things without particular injury.

These frail, sedentary livers live, so to speak, in the low grade of their health, only half a life; all their sensations, their activity, their bodily constitution, are somewhat weaker, and they grasp eagerly at a beverage, which, for some hours, so powerfully exalts their vital activity, and the sense of their existence;—careless as to the consequences, the secondary effects of this palliative.

These secondary effects resemble their condition before partaking of the coffee, only rather more marked.

When the short period of the above described first operation of this beverage, the feeling of exalted, artificial, vital activity is over, a yawning sleepiness gradually creeps over us, and a greater inactivity than usual; bodily motion becomes more difficult than before, and the excessive gaiety of the preceding hours changes into dullness.

If, during the few hours which succeeded

the drinking of coffee, the digestion and the voiding of the excrements was artificially hastened, how, on the other hand, flatulencies fill the intestines painfully, and the voiding of the excrements is slower and more difficult than in the previous state. If coffee filled the individual at first with a genial warmth, now this artificial spark of life gradually disappears, he becomes chilly, and the hands and feet grow cold. All external objects are less agreeable to him than before. Worse humored than usual, he is more easily excited to anger. His sexual appetite, which was at first excited by coffee, is now so much the colder and more deadened. A sort of easily pacified gnawing hunger takes the place of the healthy desire for food, and yet eating and drinking oppress the stomach and head still more. He has more trouble to gain sleep than previously, and his sleep is duller than when he was acquainted with coffee, and on awaking he is more sleepy, ill-humored, and melancholy than usual.

But the renewed enjoyment of this injurious palliative banishes all the complaints—a new, artificial life appears—for a shorter period however than the first time. And in this way, a repetition of coffee becomes still oftener necessary; or the beverage must be made stronger if it is to have the effect of stimulating life again for some hours.

Hence the frame of the sedentary liver becomes still more enervated. The injury produced by the final effects of this beverage spread too wide, take root too deeply, to be removed even by a more frequent repetition of the palliative, or by stronger doses.

The skin generally becomes still more sensitive to cold, and even to not cold, but fresh air; digestion is more difficult, the bowels are for several days, torpid: flatulencies communicate anxiety throughout the frame, and produce a variety of painful feelings. Constipation is succeeded by diarrhœa, not by natural evacuations; sleep ensues only painfully, and rather resembles a slumber which affords no refreshment. On awaking we are struck with dullness of the head, torpor of the imagination, slowness of recollection, helplessness of the limbs, and a joylessness which makes God's lovely creation dark and comfortless to the eye. The benevolent emotions of the heart, warm philanthropy, gratitude, sympathy, heroism, strength, and nobleness of soul, and cheerfulness are transformed into timidity,

indifference, unfeeling hardness of heart, fickleness and fretfulness.

The individual continues to drink coffee, and nervous sensibility alternates with want of feeling, over hasty decision with irresolution, boisterous anger with cowardly submission, loving grimaces with envious malice, and grinning laughter with tearfulness—proofs of the continual vibration between irritability and relaxation of mind and body.

It would be difficult for me to point out all the mischiefs which prevail among the votaries of coffee, (under the name sometimes of weaknesses, sometimes of nervous disorders and chronic diseases,) which unnerve man, and make him degenerate mentally and corporally.

But it must not be supposed that all these mischiefs occur in the same degree to every coffee-drinker. No;—one suffers more from one, another from another symptom of its final effects. My picture embraces the whole race of coffee-drinkers. I shall now range in order together all their sufferings, from their source as they gradually came to my knowledge.

The palliative pleasurable feeling which coffee disseminated through the finest fibres for a time, leaves behind, as its re-action, a remarkable susceptibility to painful feelings, and that is the more acute, the longer, the oftener, and the stronger it is drank. Even minute causes, which make scarcely the smallest impression in a healthy person not accustomed to coffee, produce in the votaries of coffee, headache, a frequent, often intolerable toothache, especially at night, with redness of the face, and finally swelling of the jaw—drawing and lacerating pains in different parts of the body, on one side of the face, or now in one, now in another limb. The body is especially predisposed to erysipelas of the lower part of the leg, (whence often old ulcers of the feet,) or, when nursing, on the breasts, or of one side of the face. Melancholy and hectic heat are daily complaints; and a headache affecting one side of the head is peculiar to coffee drinkers.

When moderate errors in diet, or unpleasant passions occur, painful complaints arise in the breast, stomach and abdomen, (improperly called cramps,) the menses do not take place without pain, observe no regular order, or less blood passes, and finally none at all, it has a watery or mucous appearance; flour albus, generally irritating, occupies nearly the whole time from one menstrual period to the other, or

takes their place; sexual intercourse is often painful. The earthen yellow, or at least, pale complexion, the dull eye, surrounded by blue circles, the blue lips, the soft flesh, the faded flaccid breasts, are external symptoms of this miserable state.

(To be Continued.)

We occasionally receive complaints from subscribers, of the non-reception of the Journal. We can only say that it is always published on or before the day on which it is dated. It is put up for the mail under our own eye, and sent by our own directions to the Post Office, or left at places as directed, by some of our own agents, and the fault lies not with us in any respect.

New York, January 6, 1847.

DR. KIRBY,

Dear Sir,—Dr. Pantillon, Hom. Physician in Philadelphia, takes the pleasure to send you a sample of the Homœopathic Coffee, invented by him, that you may be so kind as to recommend it in your next number of the American Journal, if you find it good. It is made of one of the most healthsome roots, and contains not a particle of Coffee.

Most respectfully,

W. RADDE.

We have not yet tried the above preparation. It is for sale by Messrs. Radde, Rademacher, and Otis Clapp.

We have received the January number of the WATER CURE JOURNAL—edited by our friends, Joel Shew, M. D., and F. D. Peirson, M. D.—It contains many valuable articles on the laws and means of health which are calculated to do much good. The judicious use of water we regard often beneficial, always quite as efficient and infinitely safer than the bleeding and drugging system. The Journal is enlarged and improved in appearance and has, we believe, a large circulation.

#### ANONYMOUS WRITERS.

We have long been of the opinion, that the publication of anonymous communications in medical journals, is an evil of sufficient magnitude that calls for the attention of editors. Scarcely an article of this kind appears, but the prominent object is, some offensive personalities, which detract from the dignity of the profession, and oppose obstacles to the advancement of truth.

We have sent the Journal to the subscribers of the *Pioneer*, and to some individuals at the request of friends—many of whom have signified their desire to become subscribers, by remitting to us a dollar. Will others who thus receive it, oblige us by signifying their wishes in regard to its continuance.

Our Subscribers in Philadelphia, will hereafter receive the Journal through Mr. Rademacher.

Our correspondent "F." is informed that in the course of the articles on Health and Disease, he will find, we think, his question satisfactorily answered. In the meantime we will say that the symptoms in the article referred to, do not indicate the disease to which he alludes.

Wm. Radde has purchased of the subscriber his interest in the publication of Jahr's New Manual—the Symptomen Codex.

CHAS. G. DEAN.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homœopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homœopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homœopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homœopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand, Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homœopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homœopathy; Newman's Homœopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Herring's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

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